

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

September 8, 2014

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Important Dates

Weeks of Sept. 8 and 15	MAP Testing
September 17, 6-8 p.m.	PTO Garden Harvest
September 26	The Windy Tall Ship Field Trip
September 27, 5-7:30 p.m.	PTO Fall Carnival
October 6	School Pictures
October 10	Institute Day (No School)
October 23-24	Parent/Teacher Conferences (half days)

News

- We loved meeting so many families at our Curriculum Night last week. If you were not able to attend or want to review the presentation we have uploaded a pdf of the slides on our wiki at this link:

<http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com>

- Fifth-grade students will take the math portion of the MAP assessment this week and the reading portion next week. Please be sure they have enough rest and a good breakfast.
- We are scheduled for our **first field trip** on Friday, September 26. The entire fifth grade will board The Windy tall ship at Navy Pier and sail on Lake Michigan while we learn about the physics of sailing, pirate lore, and the history of sailing on the Great Lakes. Permission slips went home last week and are posted on the wiki. Please be sure to return these promptly, as we must pay in advance. Please note that chaperones are required to pay as well.

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is:

<http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) 5th grade artists are spending the first few weeks (classes) of Art creating a radial design out of their names. Their name will be repeated eight times around a central axis. The result will be an abstract design resembling a mandala or a rose window.

Music - <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> What a great first week! It has been great meeting 5th graders new and old this week in music. We learned the round "Riddle Ree" which we did in 6 parts! I will be posting additional pictures, videos, and information this year on my blogspot. This week in the links/videos page is a link about the pros and cons of voice lessons for elementary students. Please come visit it sometime!

Chorus - We had an informational meeting for chorus this week. If your child is interested in joining chorus but did not come to the meeting, please have them pick up a permission slip from me. Chorus will be Wednesdays from 8:15-9.

Spanish - Fifth grade students have begun their first story of the year in Spanish class. They have been doing a great job of getting back into the habit of speaking only Spanish when in class. The stories will be posted to the blog when completed. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

Library - Welcome to a new year in the library! It was a fabulous week meeting new friends and seeing familiar faces. This coming week we will be discussing book care and checking out books. Fifth graders are welcome to check out three library books at a time, for two weeks. Books can be renewed (unless there is a hold on the book), and students will have the opportunity to check out more than three books when research projects dictate. Please email mmaneck@op97.org with any questions, or stop by the library during curriculum night. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> .

Physical Education - (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)

Reading/Literature

The students will continue to log their reading at home and school and analyze the data from their reading logs. Reader's Workshop mini lessons will continue to support students' reading stamina, fluency, and engagement. Topics include reading and thinking about texts, making Post-Its to record thinking about texts, and strategies for comprehending when students' mental images "become blurry." Near the end of the week, students will write their first letter to their teacher about the current book they are reading. These letters will become an ongoing conversation between each student and their language arts teacher about students' thinking about texts.

Writing

5th graders are participating in a mini-unit focused on interviewing and reporting on a classmate. Students will review the interviews that they recorded on their Ipads. Then, they will take notes on information that they deem to be important. Next, we will begin a rough draft of our articles. Our writing mini-lessons will focus on organization of informational writing.

Math

This week, we will begin a sequential study of multiplication of whole numbers. Last week, we reviewed place value and multiplying by powers of 10. This week, we will build on what we learned. We will discuss the associative and distributive properties of multiplication and also work on estimating products by rounding factors. We will also work on writing and interpreting numerical expressions. There will be a short quiz on Friday covering place value and expressions.

Fifth graders will taking the Math MAP test this week. Results will be used to guide instruction as well as to create flexible groups.

Science

In science class this week, we will investigate light and discuss our observations and conclusions. We will take our gnomon to the blacktop and collect data on the length of shadows in five-minute intervals. Students will question why the shadow length changes over time and will predict what will

happen if we measure the shadow each afternoon at the same time over the course of two weeks. We will then graph our data.

Social Studies

Last week, iPad Boot Camp bumped our regularly scheduled Social Studies plans. So this week we will begin a Social Studies mini-unit that focuses on the idea of Earth as a “Global Village”. The book If the World Were A Village contains statistics such as global languages, incomes, resource use, and ages all adjusted to if the world were a village of 100 people. We will begin to read the book and students will complete a number of graphing activities designed to help them understand the information.

Spelling/Word Study

Teachers will be reviewing the Spelling Inventory from last week. Next week we will begin Word Study using our new program that focuses on Greek and Latin Roots.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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